



Dave Geraci
Manager - Network Rationalization

500 Water Street - J200
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 633-1068
FAX (904) 245-2226

July 22, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: CSXT Abandonment
Portsmouth, VA
STB Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 680X)

Dear STB - SEA:

This refers to CSX Transportation's Notice of Exemption filed on August 7, 2007, requesting authority to abandon its rail line described above. Enclosed please find a copy of CSXT's submission to Mr. Mark Holma of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Mr. Holma's response dated July 16, 2008 stating "No historic properties affected."

On July 9, 2008 I spoke to Mr. John Fisher (804.698.4339) of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and explained CSXT's salvage activities as outlined in the Environmental Report. Mr. Fisher advised that no further action or permits from the VDEQ would be required for the proposed action.

Based on this correspondence and consultation, CSXT would appreciate the removal of the Section 106 Condition imposed in the decision dated September 25, 2007 and will consider the consultation condition met.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dave Geraci", written over a horizontal line.

Attachments

Copy: Mr. Steven Armbrust, CSXT, 500 Water Street-J150, Jacksonville, FL, 32202

9. Have any architectural or archaeological surveys of the area been conducted?

YES X
NO

If yes, list author, title, and date of report here. Indicate if a copy is on file at DHR.

Dave Geraci – 2007 - CSXT Historic Report (attached)

10. Are any structures 50 years old or older within or adjacent to the project area?

YES
NO X

If yes, give date(s) of construction and provide photographs.

11. Does the project involve the rehabilitation, alteration, removal, or demolition of any structure, building, designed site (e.g. park, cemetery), or district that is 50 years or older? If yes, this must be explained fully in the project description.


YES
NO X

12. Does the project involve any ground disturbance (e.g. excavating for footings, installing sewer or water lines or utilities, grading roads, etc.)? If yes, this must be explained fully in the project description. Description of CSXT's salvage procedures attached

YES
NO X

13. **DESCRIPTION:** Attach a complete description of the project. Refer to the instructions for the required information.

To the best of my knowledge, I have accurately described the proposed project and its likely impacts.

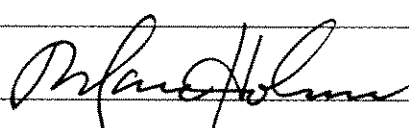

Signature of Applicant/Agent

07/09/08

Date

The following information must be attached to this form:

- Completed DHR Archives search
- USGS map with APE shown
- Complete project description
- Any required photographs and plans

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No historic properties affected		<u> </u> No adverse effect	
<u> </u> Additional information is needed in order to complete our review.			
<u> </u> We have previously reviewed this project. A copy of our correspondence is attached.			
Comments:	ABANDONMENT OF 0.5-mile of Rail line, Portsmouth, VA DOCKET AB-55(SUB-No 680X)		
Signature 		Date 16 July 08	
Phone number 804 367-2323		DHR File # 2007-0886	
This Space For Department Of Historic Resources Use Only			

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Attention: Project Review

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221

www.dhr.virginia.gov



Dave Geraci
Manager – Network Rationalization

500 Water Street – J200
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Tel. (904) 633-1068
Fax (904) 245-2226
E-Mail: Dave_Geraci@CSX.com

July 9, 2008

Mr. Mark Holma
Office of Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

(804) 367-2323 x114

RE: CSXT Rail Line Abandonment
STB Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 680X)
DHR File No. 2007-0886

Dear Mr. Holma:

In accordance with Ms. Horton's letter dated July 6, 2007 and the Surface Transportation Boards Decision number 38356 dated September 25, 2007, attached please find the following:

1. Ms. Horton's letter (July 6, 2007)
2. STB Decision 38356 (September 25, 2007)
3. Project Review Application Form
4. CSXT Historic Report (including local and topographic maps)
5. CSXT Salvage Procedures

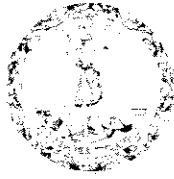
Since the proposed abandonment does not include any structure(s) older than 50 years old and salvage activities will be handled in accordance with the outlined procedures, I would greatly appreciate receiving a letter from your office confirming that this project will have no effect or impact on cultural resources.

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions.

Regards,

Attachment

Cc: STB - SEA, 1925 K Street NW - Suite 534, Washington, DC 20423-0001



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
TDD: (804) 367-2386
www.dhr.virginia.gov

July 6, 2007

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Analysis Section
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Abandonment of 0.5 Mile of Rail Line, Portsmouth, VA
Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 680X)
DHR File No. 2007-0886

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We have received a request to review and comment upon the above-referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It is our understanding that CSX Transportation proposes to abandon one-half mile of rail line between Mileposts SA 0.28 and SA .078 in the City of Portsmouth. We will need additional information for our review, specifically a fully completed Project Review Application form, available for download from our website at www.dhr.virginia.gov/environmentalreview. Please note that this application includes an archival search of our DSS database and appropriate mapping of any historic resources that may be affected by the proposed line abandonment.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments. I may be reached at tonia.horton@dhr.virginia.gov, or by phone at (804) 367-2323, extension 137.

Sincerely,

Tonia W. Horton, PhD
Office of Review and Compliance

CC: Mr. Dave Geraci, CSX Transportation

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Avenue
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 863-1624
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-2807
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Roanoke Region Office
1030 Penmar Ave., SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
Tel: (540) 857-7585
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7031
Fax: (540) 868-7033

38356
DO

SERVICE DATE – SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 680X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN PORTSMOUTH
COUNTY, VA

Decided: September 24, 2007

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 0.50-mile rail line on its Southern Region, Florence Division, Portsmouth Subdivision, from railroad milepost SA 0.28 to railroad milepost SA 0.78, in Portsmouth, Portsmouth County, VA. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on August 27, 2007 (72 FR 49042). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on September 26, 2007.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on August 31, 2007. In the EA, SEA recommended two conditions. First, SEA noted that CSXT had not received a response to its inquiry to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Coastal Zone Management Program (VDEQ) indicating whether the proposed abandonment affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone. Therefore, SEA recommended a condition requiring that CSXT, prior to beginning any salvage activities, consult with VDEQ to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required and, if so, that the railroad be prohibited from performing any salvage activities until it obtains consistency certification pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq. and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 CFR 1105.9.

Second, SEA stated that CSXT served its historic report on the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (SHPO). SEA also stated that the SHPO had not completed its review of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommended that a condition be imposed requiring CSXT to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

Comments to the EA were due by September 14, 2007. SEA received one consultation response on the Environmental Report (ER) from VDEQ after issuance of the EA. Based on its review of the ER, VDEQ concludes that the proposed abandonment is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program. VDEQ advises that project activities must be carried out in strict accordance with all other applicable state, Federal, and local laws and

regulations. VDEQ states that, based on the information contained in the ER, it appears that the proposed activity would have no effect on fisheries management, subaqueous lands management, wetlands management, dunes management, point source pollution control, shoreline sanitation, and coastal lands management. VDEQ adds, however, that it has concerns with respect to enforceable policies in the areas of wetlands management, non-point source pollution control, and air pollution control. Accordingly, SEA now recommends that the proposed salvage condition be modified to no longer require that CSXT determine whether coastal management consistency certification is required, but instead to require that CSXT consult with VDEQ to address VDEQ's concerns about wetlands management, non-point source pollution control, and air pollution control.

Based on SEA's recommendation and modification, the proposed abandonment, if implemented as conditioned, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the notice served and published in the Federal Register on August 27, 2007, exempting the abandonment of the line described above, is subject to the conditions that CSXT shall: (1) consult with VDEQ prior to beginning any salvage activities to address VDEQ's concerns about wetlands management, non-point source pollution control, and air pollution control; and (2) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register until the section 106 process of the NHPA has been completed. CSXT shall report back to SEA regarding any consultations with the SHPO and the public. CSXT may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities (including removal of tracks and ties) until the section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Project Review Application Form

This application must be completed for all projects that will be federally funded, licensed, or permitted, or that are subject to state review. Please allow 30 days from receipt for the review of a project. All information must be completed before review of a project can begin and incomplete forms will be returned for completion.

I. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Has this project been previously reviewed by DHR? YES ☒ NO ☐ DHR File # 2007-0886
2. Project Name Abandonment of 0.5 Mile of Rail Line
3. Project Location Portsmouth USA
City Town County
4. Specify Federal and State agencies involved in project (providing funding, assistance, license or permit). Refer to the list of agencies and abbreviations in the instructions.

Lead Federal Agency Surface Transportation Board (STB)

Other Federal Agency _____

State Agency _____

5. Lead Agency Contact Information

Contact Person Ms. Victoria Rutson, Chief – Section of Environmental Analysis

Mailing Address 395 East Street, Washington, DC 20423

Phone Number (202) 245-0295 Fax Number (202) 245-0454

Email Address _____

6. Applicant Contact Information

Contact Person Mr. Dave Geraci, Manager – Network Rationalization

Mailing Address 500 Water Street – J200, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Phone Number (904) 633-1068 Fax Number (904) 245-2226

Email Address Dave_Geraci@csx.com

II. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

7. USGS Quadrangle Name Norfolk South
8. Number of acres included in the project 6.06

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Attention: Project Review
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221
www.dhr.virginia.gov

9. Have any architectural or archaeological surveys of the area been conducted?

YES X
NO

If yes, list author, title, and date of report here. Indicate if a copy is on file at DHR.

Dave Geraci – 2007 - CSXT Historic Report (attached)

10. Are any structures 50 years old or older within or adjacent to the project area?

YES
NO X

If yes, give date(s) of construction and provide photographs.

11. Does the project involve the rehabilitation, alteration, removal, or demolition of any structure, building, designed site (e.g. park, cemetery), or district that is 50 years or older? If yes, this must be explained fully in the project description.

YES
NO X

12. Does the project involve any ground disturbance (e.g. excavating for footings, installing sewer or water lines or utilities, grading roads, etc.)? If yes, this must be explained fully in the project description. Description of CSXT's salvage procedures attached

YES
NO X

13. DESCRIPTION: Attach a complete description of the project. Refer to the instructions for the required information.

To the best of my knowledge, I have accurately described the proposed project and its likely impacts.



Signature of Applicant/Agent

07/09/08

Date

The following information must be attached to this form:

- Completed DHR Archives search
- USGS map with APE shown
- Complete project description
- Any required photographs and plans

<u> </u> No historic properties affected <u> </u> No adverse effect	
<u> </u> Additional information is needed in order to complete our review.	
<u> </u> We have previously reviewed this project. A copy of our correspondence is attached.	
Comments: _____	

Signature _____ Date _____	
Phone number _____ DHR File # _____	
<i>This Space For Department Of Historic Resources Use Only</i>	

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Attention: Project Review

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221

www.dhr.virginia.gov

HISTORIC REPORT

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.
(CITY of PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA)
DOCKET AB-55 (SUB-NO. 680X)

1105.7(e)(1)

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES. Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

CSXT proposes to abandon approximately 0.5-mile of its rail operation between from Railroad Milepost SA 0.28 to Railroad Milepost SA 0.78 in the City of Portsmouth, Virginia.

The above referenced 0.5-mile line has not generated any originating or terminating traffic in over two years.

Abandonment of this line will result in the removal of the rail, crossties, and possibly the upper layer of ballast. CSXT does not intend to disturb any sub grade or sub grade structures. Finally, the operations and maintenance of this line will cease. Removal of the rail line will result in the elimination of three (3) at-grade crossings.

The only alternative would be not to abandon and to pass the operating loss and capital costs of retaining the line to all other CSXT customers. This would not be a prudent utilization of carrier resources.

Two maps, which delineate the proposed project, are attached. (See Attachments 1 and 2)

1105.8(d)

- (1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action.

Attached is a copy of the Portsmouth, USGS Norfolk South quadrangle topographic map prepared by the U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey prepared by the U. S. Department of Interior Geological Survey. The line to be abandoned has been identified by a heavy black diagonal line. (See Attachment 3)

There are no CSXT-owned structures that are 50 years old or older that may be eligible for listing in the National Register that are part of the proposed action.

- (2) A written description of the right of way (including approximate widths, to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristic of the surrounding area:

The right of way on this line segment is approximately thirty (30) feet from the centerline of track. The line runs easternly through a light industrial and commercial segment of Portsmouth adjacent to Interstate 264.

- (3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area:

Not applicable.

- (4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations, to the extent such information is known:

Not applicable.

- (5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action:

This line segment was acquired and built by the Seaboard & Roanoke Railway (SRRR). The SRRR was part of the Portsmouth and Weldon Railroad (PWRR). The PWRR was eventually acquired by the Seaboard Airline Railway (SAL).

The SAL officially organized in 1900 in a merger that brought several smaller railroads together including its earliest predecessor, the Portsmouth and Weldon Railroad. The SAL operated under this name until it was reorganized due to financial problems stemming from the depression and wartime era as the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in 1946.

The Seaboard Airline Railroad operated under its new name until July 1, 1967 when it merged with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL) to become the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad (SCL). In 1972, the SCL formed a partnership called The Family Lines System with a number of other railroads. In 1982 the Family Lines System merged in the Seaboard System Railroad. In 1986, the Seaboard System Railroad merged with the Chessie System Railroad to become CSX Transportation.

Upon receiving abandonment authority, Applicant's operations and maintenance over this line will cease.

- (6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic:

Not applicable.

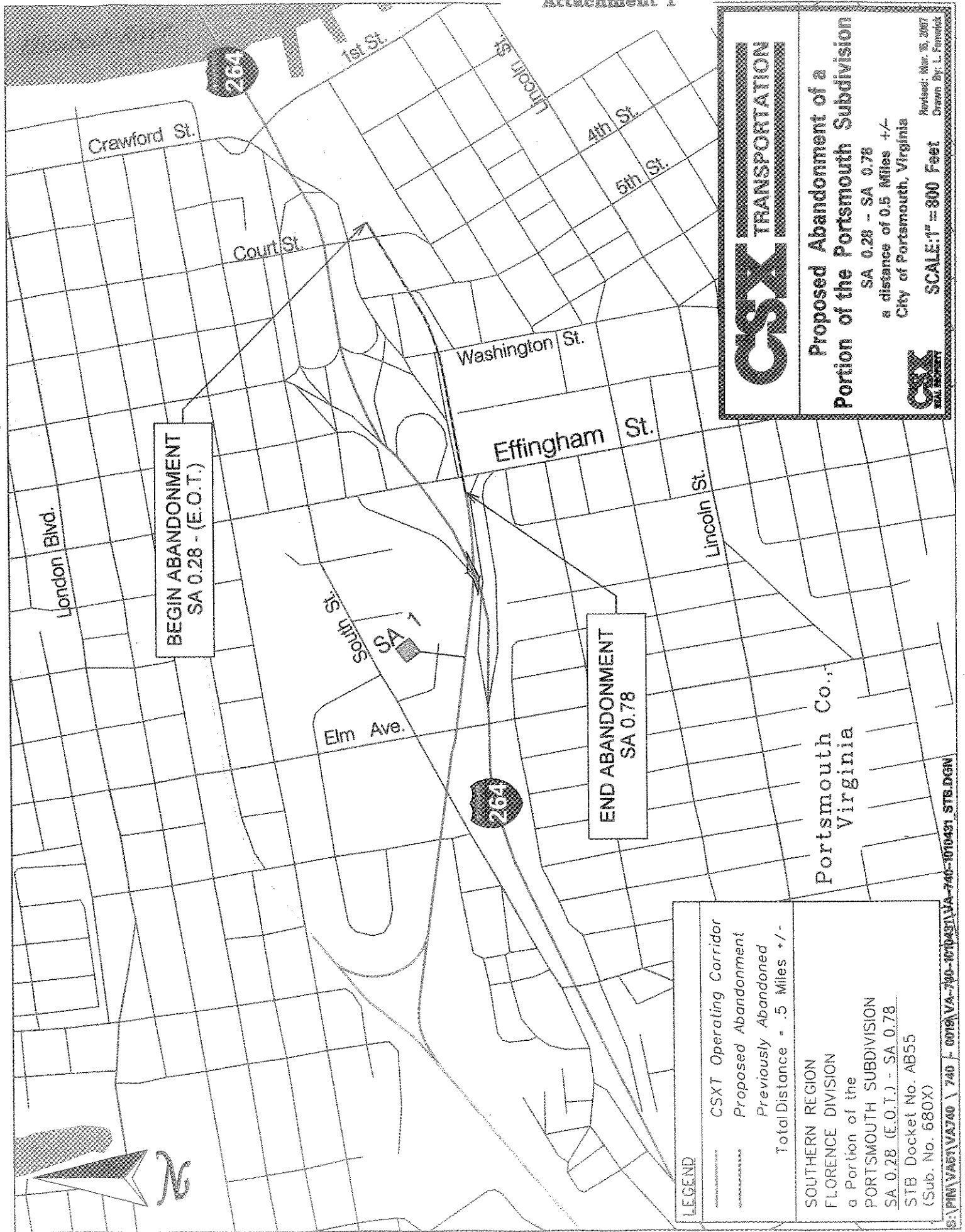
- (7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities):

A review of our records indicates there are no CSXT-owned structures over 50 years old on this line segment that may be eligible for listing in the National Register.

We do not know of any archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area.

- (8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or man-made) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.

The line was disturbed during construction by cuts and fill and any archeological resources that may have been located in the proposed project area would have been affected at that time versus during the proposed salvage operations associated with rail removal. Our records do not indicate that any swampy conditions exist, or that any hazardous material spills have occurred within the project area.



**Proposed Abandonment of a
Portion of the Portsmouth Subdivision**

SA 0.28 - SA 0.78
a distance of 0.5 Miles +/-
City of Portsmouth, Virginia



Revised: Mar. 15, 2007
Drawn By: L. Fennick

SCALE: 1" = 800 Feet

LEGEND

CSXT Operating Corridor

Proposed Abandonment

Previously Abandoned

Total Distance = .5 Miles +/-

SOUTHERN REGION

FLORENCE DIVISION

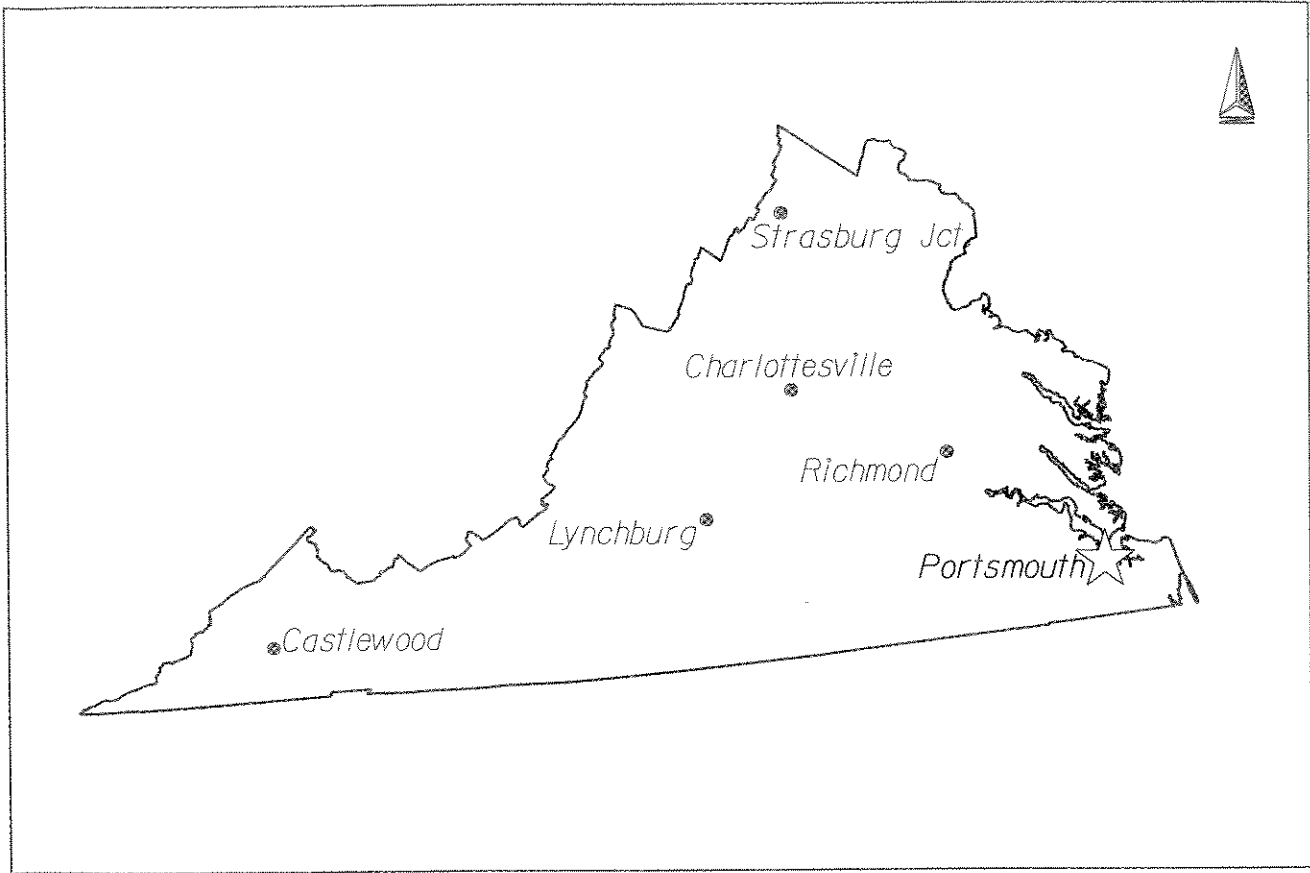
a Portion of the

PORTSMOUTH SUBDIVISION

SA 0.28 (E.O.T.) - SA 0.78

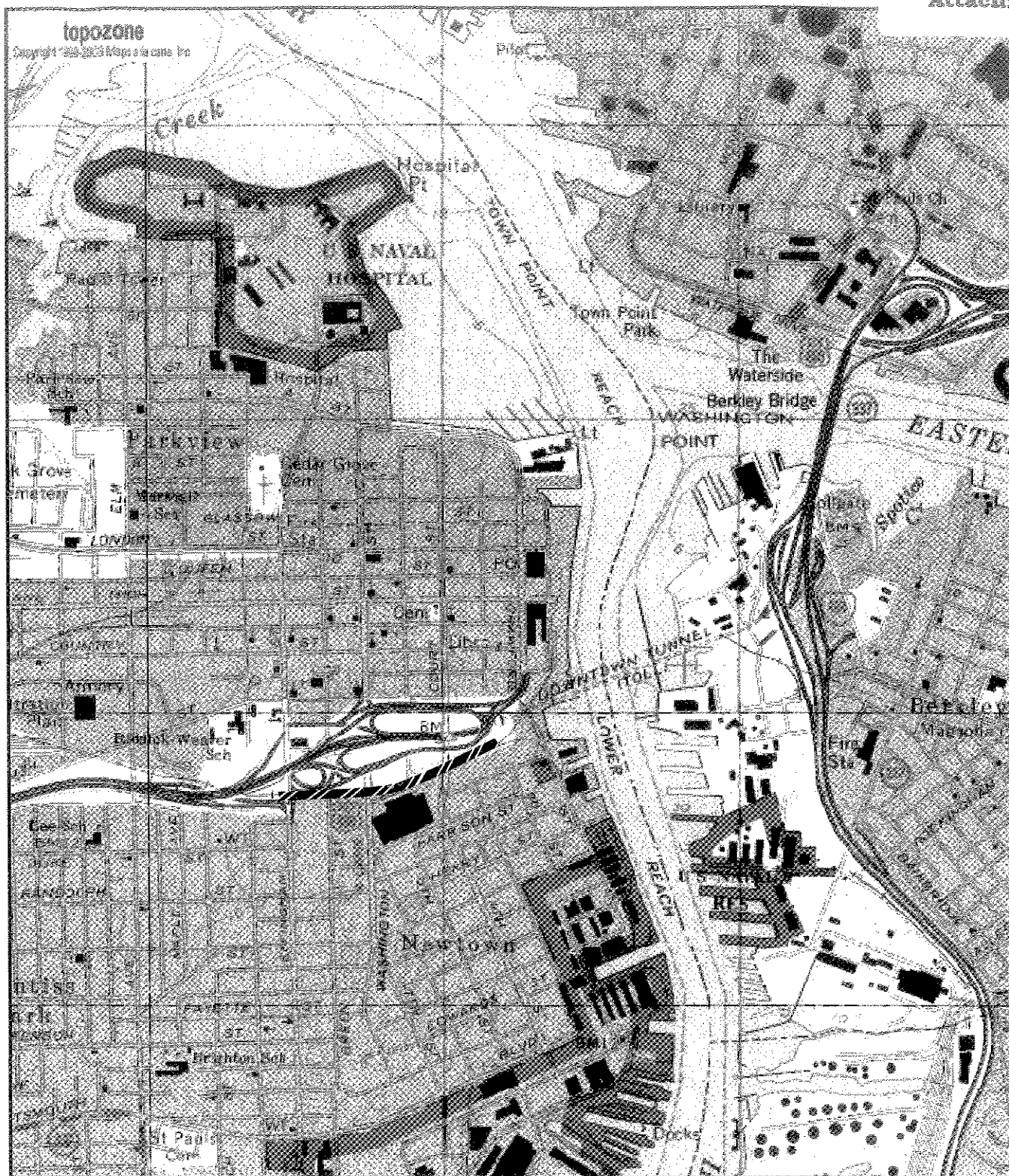
STB Docket No. AB55

(Sub. No. 680X)



AREA MAP

- Proposed Abandonment -
Beginning Portion of the
Portsmouth Subdivision
SA 0.28 - SA 0.78
0.5 Miles +/-
City of Portsmouth
Portsmouth County, Virginia



UTM 18 384200E 4077184N (NAD27)
 Portsmouth, USGS Norfolk South (VA) Quadrangle
 Projection is UTM Zone 18 NAD83 Datum

M=-9.234
 G=-0.778

CSX Transportation salvage procedures:

Removal of material will be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing public and private crossings, and no new access roads are contemplated. CSX does not intend to disturb any of the underlying roadbed or perform any activities that would cause sedimentation or erosion of the soil, and do not anticipate any dredging or use of fill in the removal of the track material. The crossties and/or other debris will be transported away from the rail line and will not be discarded along the right of way nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. Also, during track removal, appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any waterways.